



# The Riverside University High School Foundation

Serving alumni, friends, and families of Riverside University High School

## SUMMER 2010

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## What Is It?

It is a student fundraising activity that has raised hundreds of millions of dollars for the American Heart Association. If you "Google" its name, you will find 330,000 references. It was started by a Riverside University High School teacher in 1978 when 216 students raised a total of \$2,032. **What is it? Turn to the article on Page 3 to find out.**

## We Asked and You Came Through!

In the December, 2009 issue of the Foundation Newsletter, we solicited matching donations to support both the continuation of the tour of Historically Black Colleges and Universities and for new costumes for the school's Swing Choir. Once again, Riverside's alumni and friends came through.

We received \$1,300 in donations for the Black College/University Tour which triggered the Foundation's \$1,000 challenge grant which was in addition to the Foundation's unqualified donation of \$1,000 for this activity bringing the total amount of money donated by the Foundation and its contributors to \$3,300.

We received \$700 in donations for the purchase of new Swing Choir costumes which was matched by the Foundation. Together with the Foundation's unqualified donation of \$1,000, a total of \$2,400 was contributed toward this activity.

The students and teachers involved in these activities have enthusiastically thanked the Foundation and its supporters for their assistance.

Riverside alumni and friends have consistently come through when the school's needs exceeded the school's dwindling financial resources. In the face of further MPS budget cuts, the school will need even more help if it is going to continue the standards of excellence that it has maintained for so many decades.



Students stand beneath the statue on Tuskegee University's campus that symbolizes Booker T. Washington pulling the veil of ignorance from the former slave by enabling him/her to receive an education. (The former slave is holding a book in his lap to symbolize education.)

## E-mail Newsletter Option

Beginning next Fall, alumni on the Foundation's mailing list will have the option of receiving the Foundation's newsletters electronically through e-mail. In addition to the Foundation's two full newsletters each year, the Foundation will also be sending additional, shorter newsletters only to those who sign up for them through their e-mail. If you would prefer this option, please check the appropriate box on the attached form and provide us with your e-mail address if you have not already done so.

# 2010 Foundation Scholarship Applications Reach an All-time High

There were an extraordinary number of applications for Foundation scholarships this year. A total of sixty-four (64) students submitted requests. Each applicant was interviewed by a committee of Foundation Board members. Due to limited funds, the Foundation awarded no \$1,000 to the most impressive applicants as it usually does. Instead, it chose to use its limited funds to award \$500 scholarships to a larger number of the applicants for a total of twenty-four (24) \$500 scholarships. Thanks to the Foundation's family of Scholarship Funds partners, eleven (11) other scholarships were awarded. The details are provided elsewhere in this newsletter.

The Foundation Interview Committee was so impressed with ten (10) of the other applicants that it would have awarded scholarships to them if the money had been available. The average cumulative grade point average of these other ten applicants was 3.4, the equivalent of an A- average for fairly rigorous classroom work. In addition, all ten of these students had been involved in multiple school activities as well as multiple forms of community service.

There is a desperate need for additional donations to the Foundation so that it

can provide larger scholarships to deserving students as well as more scholarships to more students. We ask these students to work hard at Riverside to improve their academic skills. We guide them to improve their self-esteem so that they will seriously consider going on to college. We invest a considerable amount of time and energy in them. Then, when they reach their high goals, they find that the cost of attending a college of university is beyond their means. We are not really providing "Scholarships" either. We are providing one-time grants which barely make a dent in the cost of tuition, room and board, even at a state college. But our grants are important because they are a symbol of the pride that Riverside staff and alumni have in these students. They worked hard. They were involved in school activities. They were involved in community service. They did what we told them needed to be done **and they made it!** We need to recognize them and reward them by helping them pay for the next step in their academic life. Unfortunately the extraordinary achievements of at least ten (10) richly deserving Riverside graduating seniors will not be recognized by the Foundation this year because there simply is not enough money. **We have to do better than this. We can do better than this. We will do better than this!**

Establishing a scholarship fund through the Foundation is a wonderful way to "give back" to the school and the need is great. The process is quite simple. All you have to do is write or E-mail the Foundation President, Jan Gibson and request a "Scholarship Fund Establishment Form". Mrs. Gibson can be reached at [gibsonj5@aol.com](mailto:gibsonj5@aol.com) or by mail at 1660 N. Prospect Ave., #2307, Milwaukee, WI, 53202. This form asks that you provide the following information:

1. The name of your scholarship fund.
2. Whether you intend to make this a one-time or continuing scholarship.
3. How you will solicit tax-deductible donations for your scholarship.
4. What the criteria will be for selecting the recipient(s) of your scholarship.
5. What process you will use to select a recipient. Note: The existing Foundation Interview Committee could do the work and make a recommendation to you.

This information is then submitted to the Foundation Board of Directors for their approval. It should be noted that, in order to meet its fiduciary responsibilities, the Board of Directors must give final approval to any scholarship recommendations.

## Scholarship Recipients an Impressive Group of High-Achieving Riverside Students

Wow! The 2010 recipients of Foundation Scholarships represent the full rainbow of Riverside's rich multi-cultural, multi-ethnic student body and should make all Riverside alumni proud as can be. The statistics tell only part of the story but it is an important part because these students faced up to a very rigorous academic program and excelled. The average four-year cumulative grade-point average was 3.5 out of a possible 4.0. Fourteen of the recipients earned a grade point average of 3.5 (A+) or better. One student earned a 4.0 GPA, two students earned a 3.9 GPA, and six students earned either a 3.7 or 3.8 GPA. These accomplishments are even more impressive when you consider that this group took a cumulative total of 189 Honors courses in their Freshman and Sophomore years and 157 Advanced Placement courses in their Junior and Senior years. Talk about academic rigor! But that is not all. In addition to excelling in the classroom, these students participated in a full range of school activities and an impressive number and variety of community service programs.

The genuine pride that the teachers of these scholarship recipients expressed is truly heartwarming and memorable. Here are just a few representative examples:

*"She is hard-working, ambitious, and has amazing school spirit. ... She takes constructive criticism well and learns from her mistakes. ... She was always willing to explain a subject to a classmate who might not comprehend it as well as she did."*

*"... Riverside prides itself on providing rigorous, college preparatory curriculum for all of its students. In this highly competitive environment, she has exceeded all expectations. She has taken the most challenging courses and maintains a perfect 4.0 grade point average. She has displayed levels of determination and persistence that were truly inspiring. She never backed down from a challenge of difficult concepts or a heavy workload. She found a way to master the concepts and produce exemplary work."*

*"She is a positive role model for less motivated classmates ... As a bilingual Latino senior, she has spoken with bilingual freshmen on multiple occasions to try to explain to them the importance of maintaining a good GPA throughout all of high school."*



*The names of these scholarship recipients as well as additional information regarding their achievements can be found on the Foundation web site at [www.riversidefoundation.com](http://www.riversidefoundation.com).*

## ***"Jump Rope For Heart" Began Right Here At Riverside***

In 1978, Riverside High School Physical Education teacher Jean Barkow was searching for a way to promote physical fitness to the public, provide a fundraising opportunity for her students and show that positive things were going on in the Milwaukee Public Schools. She needed an idea that would appeal to boys as well as girls and the activity needed to be held in a location that could be easily supervised. She finally hit upon the idea of rope jumping. She surveyed the Riverside student body and found 216 students who were willing to participate and secure monetary pledges from family and friends for each minute that they could jump rope. That very first ever "Jump-Rope-athon", later the "Jump Rope For Heart" raised a total of \$2,032 for the American Heart Association. After sharing her idea with her professional organization, the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AAHPERD), the idea took off and has now become the largest charitable fundraising activity in the world. Miss Barkow has been honored by the AAHPERD and the American Heart Association for her part in establishing this program.

How Successful Has It Been? - In its very first full year of existence, 2,900 schools in 39 states involving 300,000 students participated in Jump Rope For Heart and raised over \$4 million dollars. In its first ten (10) years, 7 million participants raised more than \$140 million. In its first thirty (30) years, "Jump Rope For Heart" raised over \$703 million to fight heart disease and stroke while offering millions of school children a very real education in how to maintain good heart health through nutrition and physical activity. In the most recent school year for which statistics are available (2008-09) just the top 100 schools alone that participated in the Jump Rope For Heart activity raised a total of \$2.5 million.

Miss Barkow taught physical education from 1956 until her retirement in 1991. During her tenure at Riverside she also coached Girls Volleyball for fifteen (15) years and was the



supervisor of the school's Drill Team which, at its height, involved 64 students including 6 drill leaders. Her Drill Teams performed during the half time of a Packer game at Lambeau Field, six times at Marquette Basketball games at the Milwaukee Arena, at least five times at various UWM sports



events and at both UW-Whitewater and UW-Stevens Point. Following her retirement from teaching, Miss Barkow returned to Riverside as a school aide in 1991 and was put in charge of organizing a backlog of records in the Attendance Office. She not only accomplished that task but she also put into place updated procedures for dealing with student absences and tardiness that are still being used today. Since her second retirement from Riverside in 1998, Miss Barkow has split her time between Milwaukee, Door County and Florida where she continues to pursue her creative talents.

Miss Barkow's thoughtfulness, creativity and persistence in establishing the Jump Rope For Heart student fundraising activity is just one more example of the tremendous teaching talent that has always characterized the academic program at Riverside.

### **Scholarship recipients cont. from Page 2**

*"... She "gets it". "Getting it" does not come easily to most students. She is the kind of student who "gets" the explanation the first time, who turns in the assignment correctly done, who intuitively knows what is expected in order to succeed in an academic setting."*

*"... He has earned the respect of every teacher at Riverside University High School through hard work, diligence, wise time management and results. He is a clear thinker, a good communicator and a fine student."*

*"... During my twenty-three years as a teacher, I have encountered few students who possess the combination of intelligence, motivation and leadership skills so clearly evident in this young man. ... I cannot help but describe him as truly representative of the highest purposes and ideals established by the Milwaukee Public Schools."*

*"... Academically, she is in the top 1% of the students that I have taught in my 21 years of teaching. She has a brilliant mind. ... Her analytical and abstract thinking skills are beyond her peers. ... The beautiful part of this student is that she is not boastful of her success but is very humble."*

*"... She is truly a citizen of the world with a proactive and purposeful plan for her future, a future dedicated to making the world a better place. How often have you had a student that is conversant in Swahili, English, French, Somali, and is currently taking Chinese at the University ... while still in high school? ... She exemplifies the epitome of what we hope the best of our students aspire to and will become."*

*"... In her career at Riverside, she has exhibited a calm and relaxed personality that defines her cool maturity. She is relaxed in high-pressure situations that demand logic and precise decision-making."*



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**The Riverside University High School  
Riverside University High School**

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## Riverside High School Senior Is Bound For West Point

Riverside University High School student Geoffery Bacon will attend the United States Military Academy at West Point beginning in the Fall. Bacon, an outstanding student who is a member of the National Honor Society, was a First team, all conference wide receiver in football for the Tigers. He was a state qualifier in track and field in relays, as well as a member of the school's basketball team. Bacon was also selected to play in the 2010 Shrine Bowl, which is the national all-star game for high school football players. Congratulations to Geoffery, his parents and his teachers for making Riverside and its family of alumni and friends proud.

**This Newsletter is published by the Riverside University High School Foundation, 1615 E. Locust St., Milwaukee, WI 53211. We're on the web: www.riversidefoundation.com  
Jan Gibson, President and Jim Gibson, Editor**

Summer 2010 Donation Form

### The Riverside University High School Foundation

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Remember, all contributions are tax-deductible as  
provided by state law.

*Thank You!* Your Continued Support of Riverside  
Is Greatly Appreciated.